Backlog of unemployment at the end of Sixth and Seventh Plans

6341. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the backlog of unemployed persons at the end of Sixth and Seventh Plans;

(b) the target set for provision of employment during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(c) the total employment provided during the above period; and

(d) what has been the impact of structural reforms on the rate of growth of employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Backlog of unemployment at the end of Sixth and Seventh Plans was estimated to be around 9 million and 13 million respectively.

(b) No annual targets are set for generation of additional employment.

(c) Employment is estimated to have increased by about 5.8 million, 3.0 million and 5.9 million during 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 respectively:

(d) No specific assessment has been made of the impact of structural reforms on growth of employment.

Natural Resources in the Country

6342. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the growing depletion of natural resources in the country;

(b) whether Government have assessed its implication; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to find out the solution to this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Natural resources of the country like forests, land, water etc. are getting degraded in some areas due to larger biotic pressures.

(b) and (c) The Government is aware of depletion of forest resources as well as problems of degradation of land and water in local areas. Programmes have been taken up to increase the perennial green cover under various afforestation schemes by State Governments, supplemented by measures taken up by Central Government. Similarly, the schemes and programmes have been undertaken by Central Ministries/Departments as well as State Governments to arrest top soil erosion, achieving higher in-situ moisture conservation with a view to recharging the underground aquifers etc.

Increase in the number of urban poor

6343. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a marked increase in the number of urban poor from 16 million in 1972-73 to 83 million in 1987-1988,

(b) whether Government have gone into the reasons of this increase and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any measures have been taken since then or improving their economic condition and if so, the details thereof and the results ahieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The number of urban poor as per the Planning Commission estimates has decreased from 47.3 million in 1972-73 to 41.7 million in 1987-88. The number of urban poor as per the Expert

Group set up by the Planning Commission has increased from 60.3 million in 1973-74 to 83.3 Million in 1987-88. The Expert Group has suggested a number of changes in the existing methodology of estimation of number and proportion of poor.

(c) A number of steps are being taken in order to improve the quality of life of the urban poor during the Eighth Plan. These include programmes for raising income and generating employment such as the Nehru Rozgar Yojna (NRY) and Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for educated unemployed youth. An allocation of Rs. 227 crores has been made for NRY in the Eighth Plan. The NRY consists of three schemes—(i) the Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprise. (SUME). (ii) The Scheme of Urban Wage Employment (SUWE), (iii) The scheme of Housing and Shelter Upgradation (SHASU). Till 10-4-94, 5.41 lakhs urban poor have been assisted to set up micro enterprises under SUME and 478.98 lakhs mandays of work have been generated under SUWE and SHASU.

Action Plan for Chandigarh

6344. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action Plan for Chandigarh for the future development of city;

(b) if so, the details thereof in this respect; and

(c) what efforts are being taken by Government to develop Chandigarh into a city of excellence, excellent culture, excellent transport and excellent educational facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) deelop Chandigarh into a city of excellence covering education, cultural and transport facilities. Among others, a large number of plan schemes are under operation for the promotion of arts, culture activities, a college of Arts and improvement of the Museum, improvement of transport infrastructure, systems and facilities including roads safety; and expansion of the facilities for school and higher education, vocational education and technical education. The Eighth Five Year Plan outlay for activities under transport, education and art and culture accounts for abont 17.85 per cent of the total of Rs. 400 crores. For the Annual Plan 1994-95 this share is 19.95 per cent of the approved outlay of Rs. 88 crores.

Allocation for the Key Employment sensitive Sector

6345. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has a proposal to raise the allocation for the key employment sensitive sector;

(b) if so, the year from which the allocation is proposed to be raised;

(c) whether it would be raised from the coming Annual Plan; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: (a) to (d) The Eighth Five Year Plan has been formulated keeping employment generation as a major objective and the Plan strategy and sectoral allocations have been made accordingly. Allocations for the special employment programmes, particularly for Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and the new programmes introduced in 1993-94 nomely. Employment Assurance scheme (EAS) and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), have been substantially raised in 1994-95.